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A Charitable
PROPOSAL

For Relieving the

Sick & Needy,

And other

Distressed Persons.



L O N D O N:

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Notwithstanding the Provision settled by our Laws, and the Collections made by the Charity of well-disposed Christians, for the *Relief of the Poor*; 'tis obvious to any one that walks the Streets, that the same is not sufficient to preserve great Numbers of them from Beggary, to the great Grief of all good Men, and the no small Reproach of our Religion and Country.

WHETHER this proceeds from any Defect, or Misapplication and Abuse in
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the Provision made for the POOR, is not here enquired into : But if the Necessities of those who are in Health, be still so incompetently provided for, how deplorable must the Condition be of such Persons, whose Poverty is accompanied with Sickness ; who not only want the Necessaries of Life, but are render'd incapable, either by their Labour or otherwise, to procure them, and are destitute of all Remedies and Helps that may be proper for their Recovery ? What but a languishing and inevitable Death can be the Consequence of such complicated Miseries, except a timely Relief from charitable Persons prevent it ?

'Tis true, frequent Attempts have been made for making a better Provision for the POOR, but they have hitherto prov'd ineffectual ; and indeed it seems to be above the Power of Humane Laws to remedy this Evil. Nothing but the Revival of the true Christian Spirit of Justice and Charity in the Persons employed to take Care of the POOR, and the voluntary Assistance of others, acted by the same Spirit, and lending their helping Hand to so good a Work, can effectually redress the Grievances they suffer
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and make their deplorable Condition more tolerable and easie to them. ;

FOR this Purpose, *A Proposal for the more easie and effectual Relief of the Sick and Needy, by Erecting of Voluntary Charitable Societies*, having been communicated to some Persons, who have been engaged in the Promoting of several pious and charitable Works; after some Meetings had on that Subject, they did resolve, with GOD's Grace and Assistance, to undertake and carry on the Design mentioned in the said *Proposal*, and agreed to meet constantly once a Week for that Purpose, and have now actually begun to put the same in Execution.

BUT as this Work will require many Hands, and large Supplies, not only to raise a sufficient Fund for the *Relief of the Sick and Needy*, but also for the due Management and Application of this Charity, they do hereby invite all good Christians and well-disposed Persons to join in Promoting this good Design; whereof 'tis thought proper to give the following Account.

I. WHEREAS many *poor Sick People* are suffer'd to languish, and sometimes to perish for want of timely Relief and Assistance ; The *Charitable Society* proposes to provide such with the necessary Food and Physick during their Illness ; to procure them the Advice of Physicians, or the Assistance of Surgeons ; to allow them Nurses where necessary, and to engage some good charitable Women to visit them, to assist and comfort them, and from Time to Time report their Condition and Wants. And if the *Sick Person* be one that has a Pension from the Parish, or a Right to it, the *Society* will take Care to inform the Parish-Officers of their Condition, and solicit Relief for them.

II. WHEREAS many *poor honest Women with Child* are often turn'd out of their Lodgings when they are near their Time, and sometimes when their Pains are upon them, and otherwise suffer extremely during the Time of their Lying-in, for want of Things necessary for Women in their Condition ; by which means they contract Indispositions, and both their own Lives, and the Lives of the poor Infants, are in great Jeopardy ;
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the *Charitable Society* proposes to provide such poor Women during the Time of their Lying-in, with such Things as shall be necessary for them, and with Nurses to take Care of them, where they have no Friend or Relation that can do it.

III. WHEREAS nothing can more add to the Misery of a poor sick Person, than Confinement in a close, unwholesome Place, (such as Prisons commonly are) the *Charitable Society* purposes likewise to visit the Prisons, and supply the Prisoners who are sick with Things proper for their Distempers, so far as their Stock shall enable them.

IV. WHEREAS many poor Strangers, from different Parts of the World, suffer extream Hardships, and that such are in a particular Manner recommended to the Compassion and Assistance of God's People and Children, both in the Law, and by the Gospel; the *Charitable Society* proposes to relieve such poor Strangers, and to help them to return to their Native Countrey.

V. BUT the *Charitable Society* has still a further Good in View ; which is, to take Care of the Souls of those who are *Sick* and *Needy*, as well as of their Bodies ; it being certain that many poor People die, without ever seeking or receiving the Things which are necessary to their Salvation : For the Good of the natural Life, if it be alone, is no better than that of the Beasts which perish ; and the Spiritual Wants and Diseases of the Poor, are generally as great (though not always so visible) as those of their Bodies. Now, if at any Time, those who have followed evil Courses, will hearken to good Advice, it is in the Time of their Affliction, especially when it comes from Persons that give them such convincing Proofs of their good Will towards them, by Relieving their Necessities ; The *Society's* Design therefore is, to use all possible Endeavours to reclaim and bring such to a sincere and hearty Repentance, and to dispose them to a worthy and pious Communion : And in order to this, to give Notice to the Minister of the Parish of their State and Place of Abode, who may visit them if his Time permits ; or to procure some other

ther Clergyman to attend them, and to appoint others to visit them, who are capable to give them good Advice, and to read to them in Books provided for that purpose.

IN order to carry on this pious and charitable Design, it will be necessary to establish particular *Societies* in distant Parts of this great City, and (if it shall succeed) in every Parish thereof, who may be mutually helpful and assistant to one another, and all under the Direction of one *General Society*. It will also be necessary to have some certain Places for Repositories, to receive all Things which shall be sent in for the Relief and Supplies of the *Sick* and *Needy* ; and some honest and careful Persons to look after them, and a Messenger to go about the Business of the *Society*.

THAT such a Design (could it take Effect) would greatly tend to the Glory of GOD, the Honour of our Holy Religion, the great Comfort and Relief of the *Sick* and *Needy*, and derive a Blessing on this City, is what will be readily granted. And how successfully might it be carried on, would all those,
who

who are capable of Promoting it, contribute their several Parts thereto ?

WOULD they who are Rich in this World, labour to be proportionably rich towards GOD, and abound in good Works, we might soon Hope to see the Necessities of the *Sick* and *Needy* effectually supplied and provided for.

WOULD all others, who have not Money to give, yet give what they have to spare ; as Broken Victuals, old Cloaths, Linen, Beds, Bedding, Chairs, Stools, Pots, Dishes, Glasses, &c. such Things would be of great Use to the Poor ; there being nothing so inconsiderable, but may be serviceable to the Occosions of some one or other poor and sick Person.

WOULD all those of either Sex, who are freed from the Incumbrances and Distractions of Worldly Affairs ; would those who have much Time lying upon their Hands, employ some part of that pretious Time, which is too commonly spent in unnecessary Visits, unprofitable Conversation, and vain Diversions ; would they employ it, I say, in Visiting and Comforting the *Sick*, in Reading to them,

in Making or Mending for them, in Preparing Cordial Waters, &c. or in Soliciting such as are able to relieve them ; how would they at the same time advance the Designs of ~~this~~ *Society*, and their own Eternal Interest ?

How may the Physicians, Surgeons, and Apothecaries, help to carry on this good Work, and entitle themselves to a good Reward hereafter, if they be ready to assist the *Sick* and *Needy* in their several Professions ? How highly serviceable may the Clergy be, whose whole Time is dedicated to the Service of GOD, and the Salvation of Souls, if not only such of them as live in Town, but those also who are here at any Time upon their lawful Occasions, shall gladly embrace this Opportunity of doing Good to the Souls of Men, in Visiting the *Sick*, Assisting them with their Prayers, and suitable Advice ; exhorting them to bear their Wants and Sufferings with Patience, and to be reconciled to their GOD and SAVIOUR, by a hearty Repentance, and sincere Resolutions of Amendment of Life.

IN a Word; What Person is there, who may not some way or other contribute to promote this *Charitable Design*, when the least thing that is done or given for the Sake of JESUS CHRIST, to the *Sick* and *Needy*, shall be remembered at the great Day of Retribution, and rewarded? when even a *Cup of cold Water given to a Disciple, in the Name of a Disciple, shall not lose its Reward*? And who would not strive to do something, when so small a Thing is accepted, and shall be rewarded hereafter? And what nobler Use can be made of the good Things of this World, than to bestow them so as to advance the Glory of GOD, the Good of our Fellow-Creatures, and our own Perfection and Happiness hereafter? And what Care ought every one to take, that nothing in his Possession be wasted, spoiled, or destroyed through Negligence, which may be of Service to his Fellow-Creature? which may help to feed, or to cloath, or to save the Life of one, who is made in the Image of GOD as much as himself; seeing our Blessed LORD, who, tho' he fed five Thousand Persons by a miraculous Increase of Bread and Fish, yet would not suffer the Fragments

that remain'd to be lost, but commanded them to be carefully gathered up and preserved ?

LET all good Christians then resolve to give their helping Hand to this good Work, and heartily join in Promoting so *Charitable a Design*: To which there needs nothing further be urged as a Motive to perswade them, than to put them in Mind of the Example of our common LORD and SAVIOUR, who *went about doing Good*, healing every Sickness and every Disease among the People; who refused not the meanest Office to serve others, and stooped down even to the washing his Disciples Feet; who, *though he was Rich, yet made himself Poor for our Sakes*, and therefore recommends the POOR to us for his Sake, reckoning what is done on that Score to them, as done to himself; and who, in a Word, puts the final Issue of the Salvation or Condemnation of all who profess to be his Followers, on the faithful Discharge or Neglect of that Precept of Divine Love and Charity, which is best known by the genuine Fruits of it described in that Passage of *St. Matthew's Gospel*, Chap. xxv. *Come ye Blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the Beginning*

ning of the World. For I was an Hungred, and ye gave me Meat: I was Thirsty, and ye gave me Drink: I was a Stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye Cloathed me: I was Sick, and ye Visited me: I was in Prison, and ye came unto me. — Verily, I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my Brethren, ye have done it unto me.

F I N I S.



